

**Aruba Living Today: Offering the so much needed human touch**



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Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

## Senators push to reform police's cellphone tracking tools



A man is silhouetted against a wall as he looks down at his cellphone outside the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Thursday, July 29, 2021, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

## Aruba is looking for solutions to regulate the price of water and electricity



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# Senators push to reform police's cellphone tracking tools

By **JASON DEAREN** and **GARANCE BURKE**

**Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Civil rights lawyers and Democratic senators are pushing for legislation that would limit U.S. law enforcement agencies' ability to buy cellphone tracking tools to follow people's whereabouts, including back years in time, and sometimes without a search warrant.

Concerns about police use of the tool known as "Fog Reveal" raised in an investigation by The Associated Press published earlier this month also surfaced in a Federal Trade Commission hearing three weeks ago. Police agencies have been using the platform to search hundreds of billions of records gathered from 250 million mobile devices, and Hoover up people's geolocation data to assemble so-called "patterns of life," according to thousands of pages of records about the company.

Sold by Virginia-based Fog Data Science LLC, Fog Reveal has been used since at least 2018 in criminal investigations ranging from the murder of a nurse in Arkansas to tracing the movements of a potential participant in the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol. The tool is rarely, if ever, mentioned in court records, something that defense attorneys say makes it harder for them to properly defend their clients in cases in which the technology was used.

"Americans are increasingly aware that their privacy is evaporating before their eyes, and the real-world implications can be devastating. Today, companies we've all heard of as well as companies we're completely unaware of are collecting troves of data about where we go, what we do, and who we are,"



Former police data analyst Davin Hall uses the Waze navigation app while driving through Greensboro, N.C., on Wednesday, June 22, 2022.

**Associated Press**

said Sen. Ed Markey, a Massachusetts Democrat.

Panelists and members of the public who took part in the FTC hearing also raised concerns about how data generated by popular apps is used for surveillance purposes, or "in some cases, being used to infer identity and cause direct harm to people in the real world, in the physical world and being repurposed for, as was mentioned earlier, law enforcement and national security purposes," said Stacey Gray, a senior director for U.S. programs for the Future of Privacy Forum.

The FTC declined to comment specifically about Fog Reveal.

Matthew Broderick, a Fog managing partner, told AP that local law enforcement was at the front lines of trafficking and missing persons cases, but often fell behind in technology adoption.

"We fill a gap for underfunded and understaffed departments," he said in an email, adding that the

company does not have access to people's personal information, nor are search warrants required. The company refused to share information about how many police agencies it works with.

Fog Reveal was developed by two former high-ranking Department of Homeland Security officials under former President George W. Bush. It relies on advertising identification numbers, which Fog officials say are culled from popular cellphone apps such as Waze, Starbucks and hundreds of others that target ads based on a person's movements and interests, according to police emails. That information is then sold to companies like Fog.

Federal oversight of companies like Fog is an evolving legal landscape. Last month, the Federal Trade Commission sued a data broker called Kochava that, like Fog, provides its clients with advertising IDs that authorities say can

easily be used to find where a mobile device user lives, which violates rules the commission enforces. And a bill introduced by Sen. Ron Wyden that is now before Congress seeks to regulate the way government agencies can obtain data from data brokers and other private companies, at a time when privacy advocates worry location tracking could be put to other novel uses, such as keeping tabs on people who seek abortions in states where it is now illegal.

"It wasn't long ago that it would take high-tech equipment or a dedicated group of agents to track a person's movements around the clock. Now, it just takes a few thousand dollars and the willingness to get in bed with shady data brokers," said Wyden, an Oregon Democrat. "It is an outrage that data brokers are selling detailed location data to law enforcement agencies around the country — including in states that have made personal reproductive health decisions into serious crimes."

Because of the secrecy surrounding Fog, there are scant details about its use. Most law enforcement agencies won't discuss it, raising concerns among

privacy advocates that it violates the Fourth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which protects against unreasonable search and seizure.

Advocates on both sides of the aisle should be concerned about unrestricted government use of Fog Reveal, said former Virginia Republican Rep. Bob Goodlatte, who previously served as U.S. House Judiciary Chairman.

"Fog Reveal is easily de-anonymized tracking of Americans' daily movements and location histories. Where we go can say a lot about who we are, who we associate with, and even what we believe or how we worship," said Goodlatte, who now works as a senior policy advisor to the Project for Privacy and Surveillance Accountability. "The current political climate means that this technology could be used against people left, right and center. Everyone has a stake in curbing this technology."

The New York Police Department used Fog Reveal at its Real Time Crime Center in 2018 and 2019, a previously undisclosed relationship confirmed by public records. A spokesperson said in an emailed statement that the NYPD used Fog on a trial basis, "strictly in the interest of developing leads for criminal investigations and lifesaving operations such as missing persons." The department did not say if it was successful in either scenario.

Two nonprofits that have supported privacy rights cases in New York City said the tool exploited consumers' personal data and was "ripe for abuse," according to Surveillance Technology Oversight Project Executive Director Albert Fox Cahn.

"The lack of any meaningful regulation on the collection and sale of app data is both a consumer and privacy crisis," Legal Aid Society Staff Attorney Benjamin Burger wrote in a recent post. "Both federal and state governments need to develop policies that will protect consumer data." □

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# Millions of Americans will save on Medicare fees next year

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — For the first time in a decade, Americans will pay less next year on monthly premiums for Medicare's Part B plan, which covers routine doctors' visits and other outpatient care.

The rare 3% decrease in monthly premiums is likely to be coupled with a historically high cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits — perhaps 9% or 10% — putting hundreds of dollars directly into the pockets of millions of people.

"That's something we may never see again in the rest of our lives," said Mary Johnson, the Social Security and Medicare policy analyst for The Senior Citizens League. "That can really be used to pay off credit cards, to restock pantries that have gotten low because people can't afford to buy as much today as they did a year ago and do some long-postponed repairs to homes and cars."

The 2023 decrease in monthly Medicare premiums comes after millions of beneficiaries endured a tough year of high inflation and a dramatic increase to premiums this year. Most people on Medicare will pay \$164.90 a month for Part B coverage starting next year, a savings of \$5.20..

The decrease helps to offset last year's \$21.60 spike, which was driven in large part by a new Alzheimer's drug, Aduhelm, administered intravenously in doctors' offices and introduced to the market last year with a \$56,000 price tag. Medicare set strict limitations on the drug's use earlier this year and the drugmaker has since cut the medication's cost in half.

Medicare paid less for that drug than it expected this year, helping shore up reserves that allowed the agency to set the Part B premiums lower for 2023, the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare said in a statement Tuesday. Other Medicare services and items were lower than expected, too, but Medicare officials did not respond to



**President Joe Biden walks with Bob Parant, Medicare beneficiary with Type 1 diabetes, as they arrive to speak at an event on health care costs, in the Rose Garden of the White House, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022, in Washington.**

Associated Press

The Associated Press' questions for details on those savings.

President Joe Biden lauded the lower Medicare premiums during a Rose Garden speech Tuesday.

As the midterm elections near and Biden's administration struggles to contain the painful side effects of inflation, the White House has increasingly trumpeted its work around curtailing health care costs.

"(To) millions of seniors and people with disabilities on Medicare, that means more money in their pockets while still getting the care they need," Biden said.

Biden pointed to more cost savings on the way for some Medicare recipients starting next year thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act, which will require Medicare to cover the cost of recommended vaccines for older Americans and will cap monthly insulin copayments at \$35 per month. Other provisions in the legislation, including a rule that allows Medicare to negotiate directly with drug companies on the price of some medications, will take a few years to kick in.

The bill received no support from congressional Republicans, a talking point the White House has frequently pushed in speeches and across its social media ac-

counts in recent weeks. Republicans have a different slant on the subject.

"Desperation is setting in at the White House," the Republican National Committee said in response to Biden's speech Tuesday. "Voters have a clear choice in the midterms as they know Biden and the Democrats sent costs for groceries soaring, created a recession and increased taxes."

The lower Medicare premiums were announced as 66 million Americans await the announcement of next year's Social Security cost-of-living increase for 2023. Analysts estimate that it could be historic, roughly between 9% and 10%. The exact amount will be announced next month. □



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# Maryland couple plead guilty in submarine secrets sale case

**CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP)**

— A U.S. Navy nuclear engineer and his wife entered new guilty pleas Tuesday in a case involving an alleged plot to sell secrets about nuclear-powered warships, a month after their previous plea agreements that had called for specific sentencing guidelines were rejected.

Jonathan and Diana Toebe of Annapolis, Maryland, pleaded guilty in federal court in Martinsburg, West Virginia, to one felony count each of conspiracy to communicate restricted data.

U.S. District Judge Gina Groh last month rejected the couple's initial pleas to the same charges, saying the sentencing options were "strikingly deficient" considering the seriousness of the case. The couple then immediately withdrew their initial guilty pleas and Groh set trial for January.

The previous sentencing range agreed to by lawyers for Jonathan Toebe had called for a potential punishment between roughly 12 years and 17 years in prison. Prosecutors said Tuesday that such a sentence would be one of the most significant imposed in modern times under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954. Prosecutors also sought three years for Di-



These booking photos released Oct. 9, 2021, by the West Virginia Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority show Diana Toebe, left, and Jonathan Toebe.

Associated Press

ana Toebe. Under the latest plea agreement entered Tuesday before U.S. Magistrate Judge Robert Trumble, the couple would each face a maximum sentence of life in prison and a \$100,000 fine, although prosecutors are asking for a sentence for Diana Toebe at the lowest end of the guideline range.

If the court doesn't accept the latest agreement, the defendants would again have the right to withdraw

their guilty pleas. Prosecutors said Jonathan Toebe, 43, abused his access to top-secret government information and repeatedly sold details about the design elements and performance characteristics of Virginia-class submarines to someone he believed was a representative of a foreign government but who was actually an undercover FBI agent.

Diana Toebe, 46, who was teaching at a private school in Maryland at the

time of the couple's arrest last October, was accused of acting as a lookout at several prearranged "dead-drop" locations at which memory cards containing the secret information were left behind.

The memory cards were devices concealed in objects such as a chewing gum wrapper and a peanut butter sandwich. The couple was arrested after he placed a memory card at a dead drop location in Jefferson County, West Vir-

ginia. None of the information was classified as top secret or secret, falling into a third category considered confidential, according to previous testimony.

The FBI has said the scheme began in April 2020, when Jonathan Toebe sent a package of Navy documents to a foreign government and wrote that he was interested in selling to that country operations manuals, performance reports and other sensitive information. He included in the package, which had a Pittsburgh return address, instructions to his supposed contact for how to establish a covert relationship with him, prosecutors said.

That package was obtained by the FBI in December 2020 through its legal attaché office in the unspecified foreign country. That set off a monthlong undercover operation in which an agent posing as a representative of a foreign country made contact with Toebe, ultimately paying \$100,000 in cryptocurrency in exchange for the information Toebe was offering.

The country to which he was looking to sell the information has not been identified in court documents and was not disclosed in court. □

# Patrol spots Chinese, Russian naval ships off Alaska island



In this photo provided by the U.S. Coast Guard, a Coast Guard Cutter Kimball crew member observes a foreign vessel in the Bering Sea, Monday, Sept. 19, 2022.

Associated Press

**By MARK THIESSEN**  
Associated Press

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)**

— A U.S. Coast Guard ship on routine patrol in the Bering Sea came across a guided missile cruiser from China, officials said Monday.

But it turned out the cruiser wasn't alone as it sailed about 86 miles (138 kilometers) north of Alaska's Kiska Island, on Sept. 19.

Two other Chinese naval ships and four Russian naval vessels, including a destroyer, were spotted in single formation, the patrol boat, known as a cutter called Kimball, discovered. The Honolulu-based Kimball, a 418-foot (127-me-

ter) vessel, observed as the ships broke formation and dispersed. A C-130 Hercules provided air support for the Kimball from the Coast Guard station in Kodiak.

"While the formation has operated in accordance with international rules and norms, we will meet presence with presence to ensure there are no disruptions to U.S. interests in the maritime environment around Alaska," Rear Adm. Nathan Moore, Seventeenth Coast Guard District commander said.

The Coast Guard said Operation Frontier Sentinel guidelines call for meeting "presence with presence" when strategic competitors

operate in and around U.S. waters.

The Kimball will continue to monitor the area.

The Coast Guard did not immediately respond to questions about the incident from The Associated Press.

The Chinese and Russian formation came a month after NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg warned about China's interest in the Arctic and Russia's military buildup there. Stoltenberg said Russia has set up a new Arctic Command and has opened hundreds of new and former Soviet-era Arctic military sites, including deep-water ports and airfields.

China has declared itself a "near Arctic" state and plans to build the world's largest icebreaker, he said. "Beijing and Moscow have also pledged to intensify practical cooperation in the Arctic. This forms part of a deepening strategic partnership that challenges our values and interests," Stoltenberg said in a visit to Canada's north.

This wasn't the first time Chinese naval ships have sailed near Alaska waters. In September 2021, Coast Guard cutters in the Bering Sea and North Pacific Ocean encountered Chinese ships, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) off the Aleutian Islands. □



# In Tokyo, Harris calls US-Japan alliance 'a cornerstone'

By CHRIS MEGERIAN and MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

**TOKYO (AP)** — U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris met with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida shortly after arriving in Tokyo for the state funeral of assassinated former leader Shinzo Abe.

Abe, a former prime minister who was assassinated in July, will be honored on Tuesday, and Harris is leading a U.S. delegation to pay its respects.

"The alliance between Japan and the United States is a cornerstone of what we believe is integral to peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," she said Monday at the Akasaka Palace.

Kishida said Abe "poured his heart and soul" into strengthening ties between their two countries.

"I feel it is my duty to carry on his aspirations," Kishida said.

Abe forged closer ties with the United States at a time of increased concern about China's ambitions, and Kishida is continuing his push for a stronger national defense.



U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris and Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida meet at the Akasaka Palace state guest house in Tokyo, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022.

Associated Press

The potential for war over Taiwan, a self-governed island that China claims as part of its own territory, has troubled Japan, which would likely be pulled into such a conflict.

President Joe Biden said recently that the U.S. would send its own troops to defend Taiwan if China attacked.

"The president has addressed that issue. And if it comes up, the vice president will align with the president," said a senior administration official, who requested anonymity to discuss a private meeting. The official also said Harris would "make clear our ironclad commitment to Japan's security." More

than 50,000 U.S. troops are based there.

Harris on Thursday will visit South Korea and its Prime Minister Han Duck-soo during a meeting early Tuesday said Harris will make a trip to the Demilitarized Zone, the border area with North Korea that is jointly controlled by the American-led United Nations

Command and North Korea.

A White House official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, confirmed that Harris will tour sites at the DMZ and visit with troops there to demonstrate that the U.S. commitment to South Korea's defense is "ironclad."

Her visit, the first by a ranking U.S. official since House Speaker Nancy Pelosi went to the DMZ in August, will come the same week North Korea test-fired a short-range ballistic missile in apparent response to joint military exercises between the U.S. and Korea.

Harris will be the highest-level American to go to the DMZ since former President Donald Trump visited in 2019 for a meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Harris, who is scheduled to spend three nights in Tokyo, is visiting Japan at a politically fraught moment. Kishida's decision to hold a state funeral for Abe, a conservative nationalist, has been controversial in a country where such memorials are uncommon, and some oppose honoring him in this way. □

# Kenyan lawyer in ICC case linked to new president found dead

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)** — Police say a Kenyan lawyer facing charges at the International Criminal Court of bribing and threatening prosecution witnesses in a past ICC case against Kenya's recently elected president has been found dead.

Paul Gicheru had pleaded not guilty earlier this year to all eight counts of interfering with witnesses in the case against William Ruto, who had been charged with involvement in violence after Kenya's 2007 election that left more than 1,000 people dead.

A police report seen by The Associated Press said the family of the 50-year-old Gicheru found him unconscious at his home Monday night. "The body was found lying on the back, clean, casually dressed and no saliva or blood on any

body opening," the report says, noting that "the deceased is a known diabetic and high blood pressure patient."

The police report noted

that Gicheru's 20-year-old son, who told his mother that Gicheru "had taken something," was later found with "froth" coming from his mouth and diffi-

culty breathing. He was in stable condition at a local hospital, the report said. It was not clear what happened.

In comments to reporters, family lawyer John Khaminwa said the family had described Gicheru as stressed in the hours before his death. "He was not himself," Khaminwa said. The family intends to bring in pathologists to "look at his internal organs and other things," he said.

The Kenya Human Rights Commission said it was "concerned with the shocking news of the untimely death" and urged a swift and conclusive investigation.

The charges against Ruto and others, including previous President Uhuru Kenyatta, were dropped in 2016 when the case fell apart amid allegations of witness

interference. Ruto denied the allegations against him. The court's decision to drop the case specified that it did "not preclude new prosecution in the future." Ruto was chairing his first Cabinet meeting on Tuesday after being sworn in on Sept. 13 following a narrow election win.

ICC spokesman Fadi El Abdallah said he could not comment on Gicheru's case but only on the procedure to be followed: "If there is information about the death of an accused, a confirmation of this information should be submitted to the (trial) chamber and then the chamber issues a decision ending the case."

Judges are currently considering their verdicts in the case. No date had been set for a hearing to deliver the judgment. □



Kenyan lawyer Paul Gicheru appears before a pre-trial chamber, via video-link from the ICC detention center, before facing charges against him of bribing and threatening prosecution witnesses in the case against Kenya's recently elected President William Ruto, which was ultimately dropped amid allegations of witness interference, at the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands on Nov. 6, 2020.

Associated Press



# Families of Mexico's missing students march on anniversary

**MEXICO CITY (AP)** — Carrying photographs of their children at their chests, relatives of the 43 students who disappeared in southern Mexico in 2014 marched Monday on the eighth anniversary of their abductions with conflicting sentiments.

On one hand, the government appeared to be advancing, but on the other they saw "internal wars" in an administration that "succumbs to military power," the families said in a statement at the conclusion of the procession.

"There are a lot of contradictory things," said Clemente Rodríguez, father of one of the students from the Ayotzinapa teachers' college who were attacked by security forces and a drug gang in the southern state of Guerrero. "Sometimes they give us information, yes we're going to act, but then we slip along the same way."

That same way being the lack of answers about what really happened that night in Iguala, Guerrero and what ultimately happened to the students, because the previous administration hid the truth and the current has only offered "partial advances," Hilda



**Relatives and classmates of the missing 43 Ayotzinapa college students and their supporters march in Mexico City, Monday, Sept. 26, 2022, on the day of the anniversary of the disappearance of the students in Iguala, Guerrero state.**

Legideño, the mother of another student, read in the statement.

"They talk about the death of our sons, but they don't show us proof," she said. Only small, burned bone fragments of three have been identified, including Rodríguez's son Christian Alfonso. In recent weeks, the Truth Commission created by the current ad-

ministration, declared it a "state crime," because authorities at all levels of government were involved in the disappearances and cover-up. It also provided new information confirming the involvement of the military. There have also been important arrests of three members of the army, including the man who had been the army command-

er in the area when the abductions occurred -- now a retired general -- as well as the then-Attorney General Jesús Murillo Karam, accused of inventing the government's original account based on torture and manipulation of evidence. But some charges against dozens of other suspects have been tossed out because of tainted evidence.

**Associated Press**

Previously redacted details from the Truth Commission report were leaked to a Mexican newspaper that had not been shared with the families. Spain's El País newspaper published documents showing 16 arrest orders against other members of the military that had been touted by the government were quietly cancelled without explanation. All of which has outraged the families to the point that they called for the resignation of the current Attorney General Alejandro Gertz Manero.

The military's alleged role has become sensitive. Alejandro Encinas, the head of the Truth Commission, said the former base commander in Iguala had given the order to kill six of the students days after they were abducted.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador promised earlier Monday that the investigation would continue. The president, who has invested more responsibility in the military than any in recent memory, also defended the institution saying that those arrested would be held accountable, but "that does not mean that the whole institution is responsible." □

# Cuba approves same-sex marriage in unusual referendum



**Seen through a fence, Cuba's President Miguel Diaz Canel walks with his wife Lis Cuesta Peraza before casting his vote at a polling station during the new Family Code referendum in Havana, Cuba, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022.**

**Associated Press**

**By CRISTIANA MESQUITA**  
**Associated Press**

**HAVANA (AP)** — Cubans have approved a sweeping "family law" code that will allow same-sex couples to marry and adopt as well

as redefining rights for children and grandparents, officials said Monday, though opposition in the national referendum was unusually strong on the Communist Party-governed island.

The measure which contains more than 400 articles was approved by 66.9% to 33.1%, the president of the National Electoral Council, Alina Balseiro Gutiérrez, told official news media, though returns from a few places remained to be counted. The reforms had met unusually strong open resistance from the growing evangelical movement in Cuba and many other Cubans despite an extensive government campaign in favor of the measure, including thousands of informative meetings across the country and extensive media coverage backing it. Cuban elections in which no party other than the Communist is allowed routinely produce victory margins of more than 90% as

did a referendum on a major constitutional reform in 2019.

The code allows surrogate pregnancies, broader rights for grandparents in regard to grandchildren, protection of the elderly and measures against gender violence.

President Miguel Díaz-Canel, who has promoted the law acknowledged questions about the measure as he voted on Sunday.

"Most of our people will vote in favor of the code, but it still has issues that our society as a whole does not understand," he said.

On Monday, he celebrated approval of the measure, tweeting "Love is now the law."

Passage "is to pay a debt to various generation of

Cubans whose domestic plans had been waiting years for this law," he added. "As of today, we will be a better nation."

The measure had been approved by Cuba's Parliament, the National Assembly, after years of debate about such reforms.

A major supporter of the measure was Mariela Castro, director of the National Center for Sex Education, a promoter of rights for same-sex couples, daughter of former President Raul Castro and niece of his brother Fidel.

But there is a strong strain of social conservatism in Cuba and several religious leaders have expressed concern or opposition to the law., worrying it could weaken nuclear families. □



## Minister of Labor, Energy and Integration met with OFAC and Department of Treasury in Washington

### Aruba is looking for solutions to regulate the price of water and electricity

ORANJESTAD – Aruban minister of Energy, Mr. Glenbert Croes together with the Plenipotentiary minister of Aruba in Washington, Mrs. Joselyn Croes held a meeting with representatives of various departments of the American government. The goal of these meetings was to ask the American government for consideration, understanding and support for the request of the government of Aruba for FSMA/RdA to purchase heavy fuel oil from Venezuela.

Aruba, like the whole world, is going through difficulty because of the energy crisis, caused by the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. The price of oil is high, and it means that prices of fuel is also increasing, including the heavy fuel oil that FSMA/RdA (refinery of Aruba) has to purchase to sell to WEB Aruba NV (electricity and water production plant), which in turns creates a price increase for water and electricity, heavily affecting our community and economy.

The reason why Aruba is approaching the United States with the request specifically to purchase heavy fuel oil from Venezuela is because there are indications that the discount that the government of Aruba can get on heavy fuel oil from Venezuela is so great that it can help bring down the price of water and electricity on the island. This will provide relief to the community of Aruba for the following 30 months while Eagle LNG is implementing its project so that WEB can switch to gas, according to a press release. Once WEB is no longer dependent on heavy fuel oil, the price of water and electricity will go down permanently.

Minister Croes expressed that the meetings in Washington were positive and he thanked Mrs. Joselyn Croes and her team at the Dutch Embassy in Washington for organizing these meetings. The preparatory meetings began from Aruba, and with the staff at the Dutch Embassy that is supporting Aruba. This made



a big difference for a small island like Aruba, with support of the platform of the Dutch Kingdom, having the strength and opportunity so that Aruba can be heard in the United States.

Minister Glenbert Croes will be in meetings and communication with the Dutch Embassy in Washington so that, together with the Plenipotentiary minister,

they can work on the request through diplomatic channels. The Council of Ministers will be informed before the formal request goes out to the American government.

The government of Aruba is aware that the need to reduce the cost of water and electricity is urgent. For many months, ELMAR (Electricity Company) and

Utilities absorbed the price increase for water and electricity, pushing the state companies in a difficult financial situation.

"The cost of life in Aruba and the whole world is sky high, and it is our task as a government to do our utmost effort to bring down all aspects of the cost of life affecting our community", minister Croes said.

## Aruban minister of Justice met with State Secretary for Justice and Security of the Netherlands

ORANJESTAD – Yesterday afternoon, the Aruban minister of Justice and Social Affairs, Mr. Rocco Tjon together with his colleagues, prime minister Mrs. Evelyn Wever-Croes and the min-

ister of Labor, Integration and Energy, Mr. Glenbert Croes met with the State Secretary for Justice and Security of the Netherlands, Mr. Eric van der Burg. Seeing that the subject of for-

eigners regards different facets and falls under various ministries, it was chosen to held a meeting in this constellation.

Among others, they dis-

cussed the subject of the spending plan for the immigration chain, the reopening of the border with Venezuela and possible future collaborations. According to a press release it was an extremely positive meeting, where they discussed the cooperation that Aruba is receiving from the Netherlands regarding asylum, aspects of migration and immigration regarding our border control.

Regarding the reopening of the border with Venezuela, both the government of Aruba and the Netherlands are aware that the reopening will take place eventually; however, the security of our border and security on our island remains a priority. In this context, the

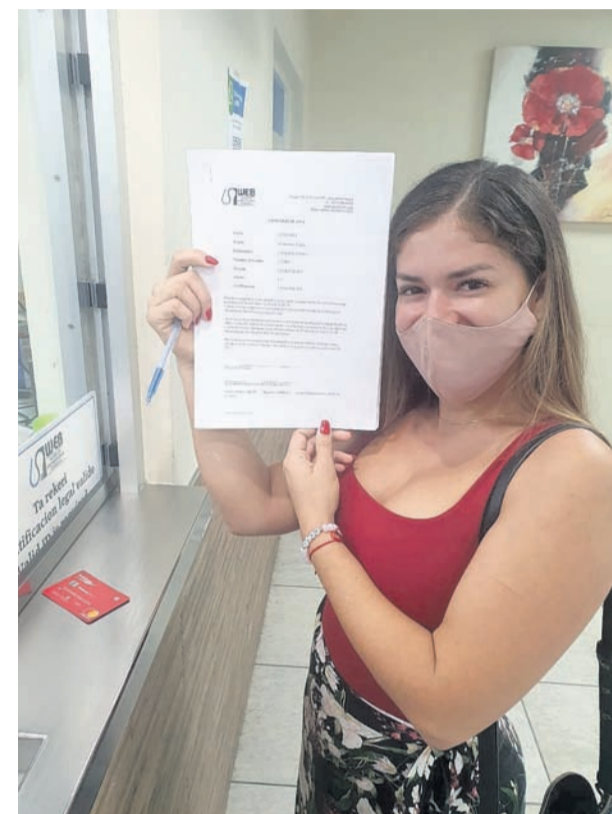
judicial security council is evaluating the possible impact of the reopening on asylum and security on our island and in general, thus it is a topic that needs further evaluation in order to come with a policy plan to execute this in due time.

Finally, they also discussed the subject of possible collaboration in the near future, and here they spoke of aspects of detention and forensic care for detainees, as well as receiving technical help regarding asylum. Aside from this, they also discussed human trafficking and human smuggling, and explained the challenges in this area in the context of the TIP-report issued by the United States.





## Over a decade in business, Aruba Living Today: Offering the so much needed human touch



**NOORD — We are in 2022. It's been a wild ride with Covid-19 and we all are aiming for a change of routine. We simply want to "live" life again. "It is time for living your dream," as the quote says at Aruba Living Today's office. "We are ten plus years in business, and I am proud to say that all our clients stuck with us. We are no part of a big company, we keep it small, personal, and real. Because you are not a number, no sales target either and certainly your name is not commission. Our responsibility is to make your dream come true," says owner Randolph Arends.**

### From human to human

If you have decided to buy a house or rent one for vacation in Aruba and you are looking for that match, the question now is how to click with a person that offers a personal touch? One who pays genuine attention and has sincere interest in what you want? This different approach to real estate is what sets Aruba Living Today apart, and the reason Randolph calls himself a property mediator instead of a real estate broker. "The personal

touch is essential to me. I am stepping aside of the image that real estate brokers are only in for the commission. This image does not fit me at all, I am in for my passion, and I can only do this from the heart."

### One stop shopping point

Services offered by Aruba Living Today are House and Land Sales, Rentals, Investments, Property Management, Vacation Rental, Mortgages, Insurances, Maintenance, Assist in Arrangements for Notary and Utilities, Guiding Bureaucracy Process and Assisting in Import of Furniture. Randolph and his business partner Berend Prenger are a fantastic, experienced duo, each of them specialists in the field. Berend is also a certified appraiser within the Dutch Kingdom meaning he does your appraisal report that is accepted by all banks and he delivers within three days. "This definitely speeds up the process of buying," Prenger adds.

### You are welcome to meet in person

Aruba Living Today houses in an authentic

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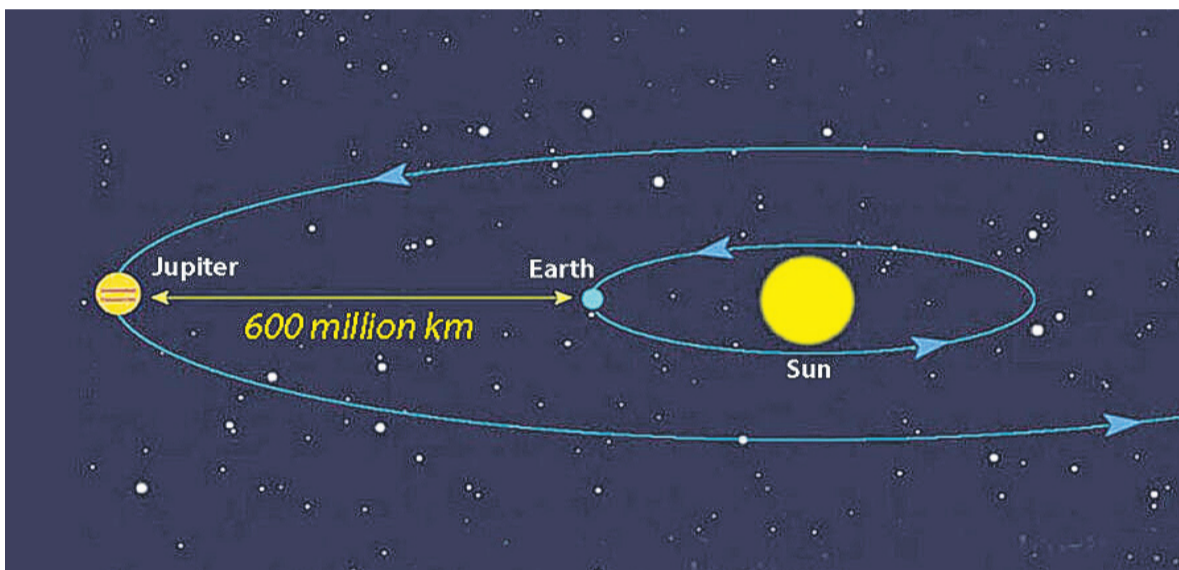
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**Jupiter is at its closest and brightest point to our planet Earth**



**When and where can you see it?**

The planet Jupiter will be visible all days until the end of this year after 7pm on the eastern side of the island. The best time view this planet is when it's directly position above us, which is between 10pm and 12pm. As the days pass by, Jupiter will rise higher and higher in the sky.

Jupiter will be visible with binoculars or a small telescope. With a small telescope you would be able to see not only Jupiter but also Jupiters 4 moons named the 4 Galilean moons after Galileo Galilei discovered them, namely Callisto, Io, Europa and Ganymede.

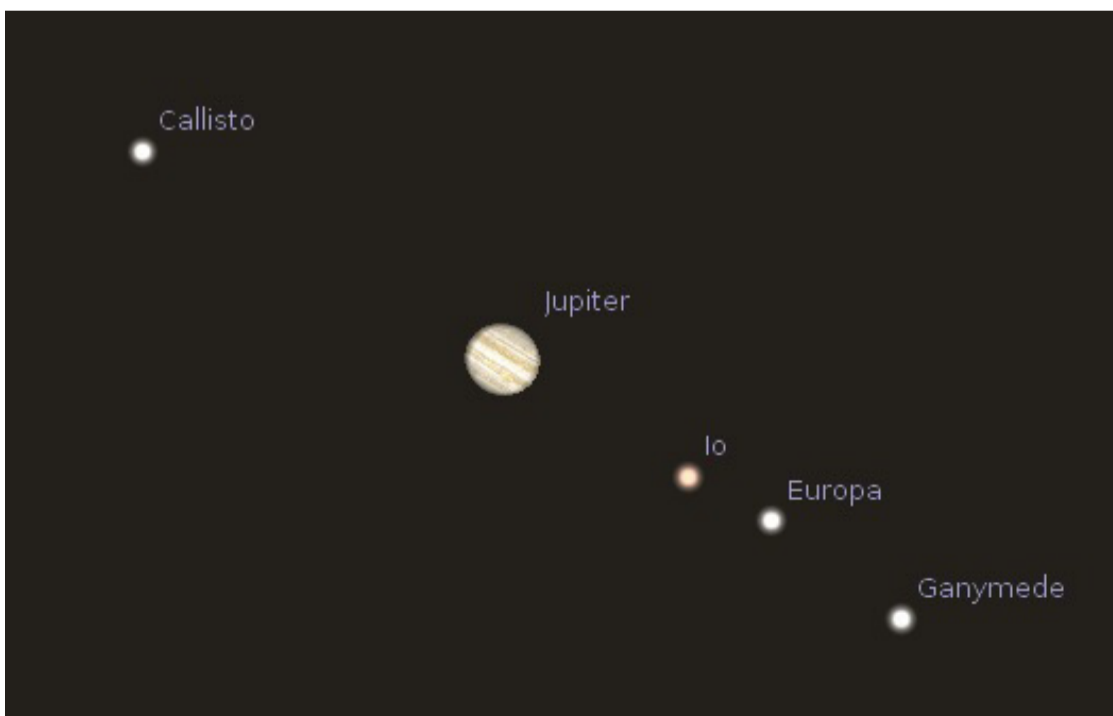
For more information you can contact Space and Nature Aruba Foundation on their facebook page. □

Oranjestad - On Monday the 26th of September, Jupiter reached its closest point to our planet Earth which is called; Opposition. The last time this took place was 59 years ago. However, the fact that we are passed the 26th doesn't mean you can no longer see the planet; we will be able to enjoy planet Jupiter until the end of this year!

Jupiter reached its position in its orbit which is called 'Opposition.' This means that planet Earth will be directly between Jupiter and the sun, with the sun making the planet much brighter in our skies. At the same time, it will be closer to us in general.

Normally, Jupiter is on 'opposition' every 13th day of the month. However nei-

ther planet, being Earth and Jupiter, orbits in a perfect circle, reason why every 'opposition' has a different distance. The distance between our planet and Jupiter will vary between a shorter distance, which was on the 26th of September, which is 600 million kilometers and the furthest distance of 965 million kilometers.



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## Gold in Aruba's soil

## Episode CLXXIII 173

Etnia Nativa through Island Insight shares native cultural awareness educates and safeguards Aruba's heritage and encourage readers to experiment an island keeper state of mind. Discover the true native reasons of concern in one and every episode.

Experience more reasons to love Aruba and live out your island adventure in an authentic revealing way. Our island is a tiny tourist destination with a fragile ecosystem, covering thousands of years of history. Here is when Etnia Nativa's main objective comes to mind, sharing information through education.

During this episode, we would like to share our recent history of gold mining, where it originated and how Aruba experienced its own gold rush -episode 28- Imposing constructions of massive stone structures dating back to those days and that are currently part of the tourist attractions.

It was around 1824 when a boy herding his sheep in the northern rocky part of the island discovered the first gold rock in a place called by the locals Rooi Fluit. Not knowing quite what it was, he showed it to his father and he in turn showed it to an Oranjestad merchant, who bought the rock from them for \$17. Later, the same merchant would sell the gold rock for \$70.- Very quickly the rumor went around of the discovery. This spread among the locals and they all began to search basically in the dry beds of the streams being the most propitious place since it is how they also found the gold rock in Rooi Daimari.

Daimari, Lagabai (Rooi Fluit), Wacobana, Arikok and Hadicurari were the most important places where gold was found. Most of it was alluvial, which came to the surface as native gold. When systematic research was later introduced, gold ore was also found in the western part of Aruba, especially in Tibushi.

In the beginning, everyone was allowed to search for gold, the search was very primitive: clay was taken from the streams and put to dry in the sun. Then the hardened parts were beaten into small pieces. If



there was gold, the larger pieces would naturally come free and when this happened, one knew that there were possibly smaller pieces as well. To find them, the finely beaten clay was ground onto a large piece of sailcloth, after which the wind blew over the sand, leaving behind the small pieces of gold. Another system consisted of diluting the clay with water in large pots, so that the gold sank to the bottom.

This search system was allowed because the gold was delivered to the government and had a fixed price, however in 1854 the extraction of gold was granted to a concessionaire.

Around that time, on the north coast of Aruba, the Bushiribana smelter was built and was in use for about 10 years exploiting the gold mines from the sur-

rounding area. it was a very solid construction, so much so that it still stands imposingly on the north coast. Years later, another concessionaire who worked in the search for this yellow mineral, in the central area of the island, ordered the construction of the Balashi foundry, of which there are still boilers and ovens as well as crumbling walls.

At the beginning of the First World War trade with Germany turned difficult and to obtain the necessary materials for the purification of the minerals was practically impossible bringing the exploitation of gold in Aruba to a stop, but during the century that had elapsed since its discovery in 1824, 2,962.50 pounds of gold were exported.

In 1946 the attempt to resume gold mining in a more modern way resulted unprofitable. However, there is still gold in the Aruban soil, although you would have to be very lucky to find it!

If you love Aruba its origins and its cultural heritage, be part of the exclusive visitors of Etnia Nativa: a cozy museum/home. ☐

Etnia Nativa a private residential houses collections of native art, archaeological artifacts and historic furniture, while the facilities themselves are the result of the transformation of recycled materials. Meet Anthony Croes, our columnist at his home! Book your visit and live the native effect! Whatsapp + 297 592 2702- or mail: etnianativa03@gmail.com





## World Tourism Day, A day to reflect on tourism and its impact around the world

Yesterday, Aruba celebrated World Tourism Day at the Ballroom of the Marriott Hotel, where various leaders, stakeholders and international experts in the tourism sector held a meeting on the theme selected for this year, "Rethinking Tourism".

Minister of Tourism and Health, Mr. Dangui Oduber was in attendance. He pointed out that yesterday was a special day for Aruba, a moment to reflect on the importance of tourism for the daily life, economy, culture, public finances, progress and wellness of Aruba.

For this reason, every year the ministry of Tourism together with Aruba Tourism Authority (ATA) celebrates this day with the chosen theme. This year's theme selected by the United Nations World Tourism Organization is "Rethinking Tourism".

After the pandemic of Covid-19, everyone had to think on how to reinvent tourism and the strategies that will be needed to recover the tourism industry, which suffered greatly during 2020 and 2021 because of restrictions related to the pandemic.

Today, after more than two years, minister Oduber assures that they are very satisfied with how tourism has recovered in Aruba, and they project that in 2022, Aruba will recover 100% of tourism, despite the fact that last January and Feb-

ruary opened very slowly because of the Omicron variant. However, Aruba recovered very quickly and currently is the second country in the world with the best tourism recovery compared to the year 2019.

"For this reason we thank our partners today, but we also want to thank each person working in the tourism industry because they are our greatest asset as a country, because they deal with our guests every day", he said.

Also in attendance were students from the Hospitality and Tourism unit of EPI (Intermediate Professional Education) and the Faculty of Tourism at the University of Aruba, who participated in various discussion sessions with experts in tourism, where they shared their experiences about rethinking tourism. But for Oduber, as he mentioned, it is important to have a sustainable development, that takes flora and fauna and the environment into consideration, and to guarantee that in the short term there are jobs for the local population and the professionals currently studying at EPI and the University of Aruba, so they can have a career in the industry.

This week there are different presentations and conferences taking place with a diverse group of experts from Aruba and abroad. There are different people



coming from Europe to attend the Aruba Meets Europe Conference. Minister Oduber commented that all tour operators have an important task to help market Aruba in Europe to attract tourists from that continent. At this conference there will be the opportunity to exchange ideas and to learn from the vision and strategy of other countries.

Ronella Croes, CEO of ATA, expressed that she feels satisfied and that this is a moment to reflect on the pandemic of the last couple of years and what was achieved, "because that fills you with a lot of pride. Mainly on this occasion, ATA puts everything on a timeline and all those achievements make you look back on everything that was done", Croes

commented.

The day began with a reflection, dedicating time to two icons who laid the foundation for tourism in Aruba, namely Juancho Irausquin, and also ATA. They spoke about the future and what awaits, where Croes highlighted the European partners who were present at the Aruba Meets Europe Conference.

There was also a symposium called Cruise Symposium Aruba 2022, which is an annual program, and also took place yesterday with the goal of working together on the quality of existing product and services and those which can still be offered to our visitors.

Tisa LaSorte, CEO of Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA) was also present at this conference, and she explained that a lot of emphasis is put on the theme of Rethinking Tourism, in order to remind everyone that it is important to ensure that the success of tourism has positive effects for the entire country. This means that it must have positive effects on people, that it protects nature, and that the industry itself is sustainable.

"The word sustainability means different things. It is sustainable in the sense

that it has a positive future, but it is also sustainable in the sense that we protect our country and protect our nature. That is the emphasis of this day", La Sorte expressed.

She also said that Aruba has shown during and after the pandemic that we are a very resilient island in tourism. "We have a very strong product, people want to come to Aruba and that helps us. Of course this stays in our economy, and it is important for people to realize that it's not only the client working in tourism who benefits from tourism. Everyone in Aruba, and other companies that exist, are the reason why we have a strong economy which is productive and creates more jobs. This is why tourism remains important", she said.

Regarding challenges that we are currently facing, LaSorte highlighted that it is important to ensure that the product remains fresh and new, because now that the pandemic is behind us, it means that other countries are also open again, not only Aruba. This means that there is more competition, and we need to ensure that there are incentives to provide a high quality product and a high quality service.





**CROSSWORD**

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 46 Un-wavering  
1 Pop's Justin

**DOWN** 1 Do a checkout job

2 S&L offering

3 Mess up

4 46th president

5 Smooth

6 Monthly bill

7 Scoundrel

8 Weave together

9 Low number

10 Spigot

16 Naples's nation

17 Messy sorts

28 Wisdom bringer

29 Ale producer

31 Upper limit

32 Scatter

33 Top-rated

34 Less leisurely

37 Fluffy wraps

39 Rust and the like

43 In the past

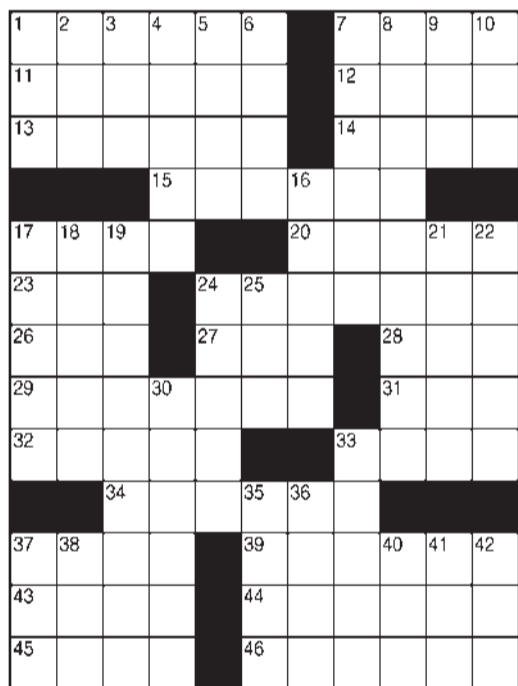
44 Ryder of "Stranger Things"

45 Yuletide



Yesterday's answer

- 18 Body pump
- 19 PC desktop, e.g.
- 21 Forum garb
- 22 Cleaned, in a way
- 24 Gushes forth
- 25 Fighting
- 30 Mink's cousin
- 33 Salty mixture
- 35 Road rescues
- 36 Way to go
- 37 "— voyage!"
- 38 Music's Yoko
- 40 1949 film noir classic
- 41 Close
- 42 Utter



9-28

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-28

**CRYPTOQUOTE**

O D T F X Z O R X F F X W V I U  
K T X K A T M H J T P K O D T H L  
K X V T L H Z N U O D H W C H W M O D T U  
Y X W ` O D I J T I W U . — I A H R T  
V I A C T L

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT'S NOT THE VOTING THAT'S DEMOCRACY; IT'S THE COUNTING. — TOM STOPPARD

# Millennial Money: How to help loved ones deal with debt

By LAUREN SCHWAHN of NerdWallet

Juan Pinon, an electrical engineer in McAllen, Texas, struggled with credit card debt for years. It wasn't until he confided in his sister that he began to turn things around.

"It just so happened that one day I opened up to my sister, and she confessed to me that she had debt issues and was able to get out through professional help," Pinon says.

Getting a vetted referral to a nonprofit credit counseling agency and encouragement from someone he trusted convinced him to take action. Pinon enrolled in the agency's debt management program and paid off about \$50,000 in less than three years.

It's difficult to watch people we care about struggle with debt. Debt can disrupt their financial and personal lives, as well as the lives of those around them. As a close friend or family member, your influence can be powerful enough to spark change. How can you help others avoid falling further into debt, especially as the expensive holiday season inches closer? Here's what you can do to help a loved one deal with debt.

**PROCEED WITH CAUTION**

Unlike Pinon, people with debt won't always raise the issue themselves. Bringing up someone else's personal financial matters can feel like overstepping a boundary. If you think it's important to intervene, be strategic about setting the right tone. The first step should be asking if they're open to the conversation, says Kathryn Ellywicz, a marketing and communications specialist and former counselor at GreenPath, a nonprofit credit counseling agency. Giving them a choice may prevent them from feeling ambushed.

If they're willing to discuss their debt situation, speak kindly and withhold judgment. "A lot of times, our family members feel shame around financial debt. So it's a conversation that



The likeness of Benjamin Franklin is seen on U.S. \$100 bills, Thursday, July 14, 2022, in Marple Township, Pa.

Associated Press

needs to be entered into very carefully," says Brandy Baxter, an accredited financial counselor in Dallas. "It needs to have a lot of grace, and it needs to be in an environment where the person feels relaxed." If you've been in a similar position, consider telling your loved one. Drawing on your own experience with debt and acknowledging the emotions involved can help you come at it from an empathetic place.

"We can use ourselves as an example to say, 'Hey, I was there, I understand. I'm not trying to put you on the spot. I myself went through this embarrassment. Please let me help you,'" Pinon says.

**RESPECT THEIR REFUSAL FOR HELP**

Your friend or family member might shut the conversation down. That's OK. "Debt can be addictive, just like any other addiction. The person that's in the cycle may not see anything wrong, and so they may not be ready for help," Baxter says. Ultimately, you have to accept that it's their life and their decision. Let your friend or relative know you respect their choice and you'll be ready to help if they change their mind.

Baxter says you can also use this as an opportunity to reset boundaries. If you've been providing financial support for them and no longer feel comfortable doing so, explain the circumstances and ask them to respect your deci-

sion in return.

**SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND RESOURCES**

If your loved one is ready to dig out of debt, help them take the next step. You can talk to them about the emotions that might be influencing their spending behavior, explore different debt payoff methods or look over their expenses.

"Maybe you come together and say, 'OK, here's how I do my budget. Let's work on how you do your budget. Or here's how I've set up my spending plan. Let's work on setting your spending plan,'" Baxter says.

But not everyone feels comfortable letting their friends and family dig into the nitty-gritty details of their financial lives. Besides, not all of us have the necessary expertise to take a do-it-yourself approach. "Of course, there's always the professionals available to help," Ellywicz says. "Sometimes, even just giving a referral is a lot of help to a family member."

Come prepared with a list of trustworthy resources, such as online tools, nonprofit organizations and financial counselors. (Nonprofits, such as credit counseling agencies, typically offer lower-cost or free services and meet certification requirements for quality and ethical standards.) Then, pass along your recommendations. Here's a start: The Association for Financial Counseling & Planning Education offers free virtual financial counseling and coaching sessions. □



# Hurricane Ian gets nasty quickly, turbocharged by warm water



Waves kick up under a dark sky along the shore of Batabano, Cuba, Sept. 26, 2022.

Associated Press

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP Science Writer

Hurricane Ian is quickly gaining monstrous strength as it moves over oceans partly heated up by climate change, just like 30 other Atlantic tropical storms since 2017 that became much more powerful in less than a day.

As the world warms, this turbo-charging of storms is likely to become even more frequent, scientists say.

After getting 67% stronger in less than 22 hours from Monday to Tuesday, Ian is bearing down on Florida as a likely Category 4 hurricane that threatens to deliver a nightmare storm-surge to Tampa Bay.

Ian's so-called rapid intensification occurred after it traveled over Caribbean

waters that are about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (1 degree Celsius) warmer than normal, largely because of climate change. Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach said the warm water creates "a lot more rocket fuel for the storm."

While climate change doesn't create Ian and other hurricanes, scientists say that a warming world means an increase in rapidly intensifying storms. Climate change also is making storms slower and wetter, worsening deadly storm surges through sea-level rise, increasing freshwater flooding and expanding the proportion of monster Category 4 and 5 storms, like Fiona last week, several studies show. The current hurricane sea-

son had been uncharacteristically mild until about a week ago because of dry air in the Atlantic. Yet while storms aren't necessarily more frequent, they are getting nastier because of global warming, experts say.

"In terms of impacts and climate change, yes, this season could be a harbinger of sort of what is to come," said University of Albany hurricane scientist Kristen Corbosiero. "But it's really hard to say that climate change has an impact on any one storm in terms of its formation or its individual intensity."

The National Hurricane Center defines rapidly intensifying storms as those that gain at least 35 mph in wind speed in less than 24 hours.

Their often unpredictable nature can cause major problems for coastal residents, emergency planners and forecasters. In Ian's

case, the meteorological conditions were so obvious that forecasters were warning about it days in advance. □

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# Bam! NASA spacecraft crashes into asteroid in defense test

By **MARCIA DUNN**  
**AP Aerospace Writer**  
**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.**

**(AP)** — A NASA spacecraft rammed an asteroid at blistering speed Monday in an unprecedented dress rehearsal for the day a killer rock menaces Earth.

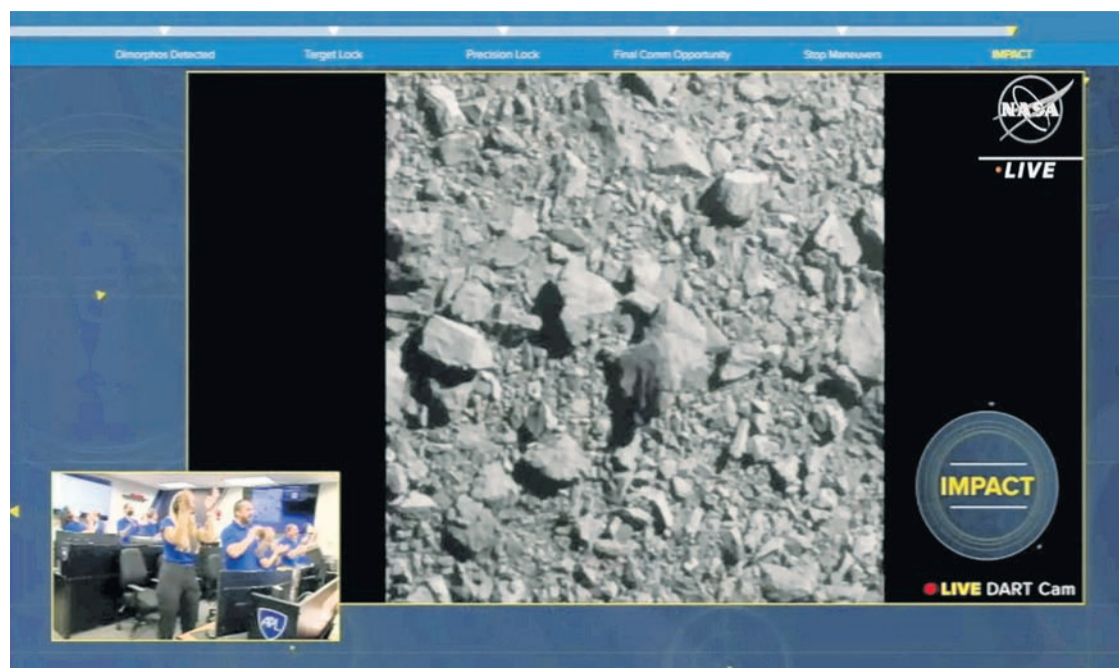
The galactic slam occurred at a harmless asteroid 7 million miles (11.3 million kilometers) away, with the spacecraft named Dart plowing into the space rock at 14,000 mph (22,500 kph). Scientists expected the impact to carve out a crater, hurl streams of rocks and dirt into space and, most importantly, alter the asteroid's orbit.

"We have impact!" Mission Control's Elena Adams announced, jumping up and down and thrusting her arms skyward.

Telescopes around the world and in space aimed at the same point in the sky to capture the spectacle. Though the impact was immediately obvious — Dart's radio signal abruptly ceased — it will take as long as a couple of months to determine how much the asteroid's path was changed.

The \$325 million mission was the first attempt to shift the position of an asteroid or any other natural object in space.

"As far as we can tell, our first planetary defense test was a success," Adams later told a news conference, the room filling with



In this image made from a NASA livestream, the Double Asteroid Redirection Test spacecraft crashes into an asteroid on Monday, Sept. 26, 2022.

Associated Press

applause. "I think Earthlings should sleep better. Definitely, I will."

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson reminded people earlier in the day via Twitter that, "No, this is not a movie plot." He added in a pre-recorded video: "We've all seen it on movies like "Armageddon," but the real-life stakes are high."

Monday's target: a 525-foot (160-meter) asteroid named Dimorphos. It's a moonlet of Didymos, Greek for twin, a fast-spinning asteroid five times bigger that flung off the material that formed the junior partner.

The pair have been orbiting the sun for eons without threatening Earth, making them ideal save-the-world test candidates.

Launched last November, the vending machine-size Dart — short for Double Asteroid Redirection Test — navigated to its target using new technology developed by Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory, the spacecraft builder and mission manager.

Dart's on-board camera, a key part of this smart navigation system, caught sight of Dimorphos barely an hour before impact. "Woo hoo!" exclaimed Adams, a mission systems engineer at Johns Hopkins.

With an image beaming back to Earth every second, Adams and other ground controllers in Laurel, Maryland, watched with growing excitement as Di-

morphos loomed larger and larger in the field of view alongside its bigger companion. Within minutes, Dimorphos was alone in the pictures; it looked like a giant gray lemon, but with boulders and rubble on the surface. The last image froze on the screen as the radio transmission ended.

Flight controllers cheered, hugged one another and exchanged high fives. Their mission complete, the Dart team went straight into celebration mode. There was little sorrow over the spacecraft's demise.

"Normally, losing signal from a spacecraft is a very bad thing. But in this case, it was the ideal outcome," said NASA program scientist

Tom Statler.

Johns Hopkins scientist Carolyn Ernst said the spacecraft was definitely "kaput," with remnants possibly in the fresh crater or cascading into space with the asteroid's ejected material.

Scientists insisted Dart would not shatter Dimorphos. The spacecraft packed a scant 1,260 pounds (570 kilograms), compared with the asteroid's 11 billion pounds (5 billion kilograms). But that should be plenty to shrink its 11-hour, 55-minute orbit around Didymos.

The impact should pare 10 minutes off that. The anticipated orbital shift of 1% might not sound like much, scientists noted. But they stressed it would amount to a significant change over years.

"Now is when the science starts," said NASA's Lori Glaze, planetary science division director. "Now we're going to see for real how effective we were."

Planetary defense experts prefer nudging a threatening asteroid or comet out of the way, given enough lead time, rather than blowing it up and creating multiple pieces that could rain down on Earth.

Multiple impactors might be needed for big space rocks or a combination of impactors and so-called gravity tractors, not-yet-invented devices that would use their own gravity to pull an asteroid into a safer orbit. □



The NASA moon rocket slated for the Artemis mission to the moon rolls back to the Vehicle Assembly Building at the Kennedy Space Center Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022, in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Associated Press

## NASA moon rocket back in hangar, launch unlikely until Nov.

**AP Aerospace Writer**

NASA's moon rocket returned to the safety of its hangar Tuesday as Hurricane Ian approached Florida, its launch now unlikely before mid-November.

Instead of trying to send it on its first test flight, the launch team moved the 322-foot (98-meter) rocket off the pad at Kennedy Space Center. The four-mile (6.4-kilometer) trip took all night.

NASA official Jim Free said it would be difficult to up-

grade the rocket and get it back to the pad for an October launch attempt. Putting in fresh batteries is particularly challenging, Free noted, making it doubtful a launch could be attempted before the mid-to-late October launch period closes. The next two-week window would open Nov. 12.

The Space Launch System rocket should have blasted off a month ago, but was delayed twice by fuel leaks and engine issues.

Once in space, the crew capsule atop the rocket will aim for lunar orbit with three test dummies, a crucial dress rehearsal before astronauts climb aboard in 2024. The last time a capsule flew to the moon was during NASA's Apollo 17 lunar landing in 1972. SpaceX's next astronaut flight to the International Space Station for NASA, meanwhile, has been delayed at least one day by the hurricane. Liftoff is now no earlier than next Tuesday. □



# U.S. women win record 27th straight game at World Cup

By DOUG FEINBERG  
AP Basketball Writer

**SYDNEY (AP)** — There's been a long legacy of success for the U.S. women's basketball team at the World Cup.

The names change over time, but the results don't. Kelsey Plum scored 20 points, Chelsea Gray added 16 and the United States routed Bosnia and Herzegovina 121-59 on Tuesday to break the team record for consecutive wins at the World Cup.

The victory was the 27th in a row in World Cup play for the Americans, who haven't lost since the 2006 semifinals against Russia. The U.S. won 26 in a row from 1994-2006 leading up to that game. The Soviet Union holds the World Cup record with 56 straight wins from 1959-86.

"It's kind of amazing," said Breanna Stewart, who has been part of the last three World Cup teams. "Obviously, been here for some of it, but you understand the legends before that who really kind of started the streak. It goes to show that no matter who is playing on USA Basketball, we're always trying to chase excellence."



United States' Breanna Stewart waves to the crowd following their win over Bosnia and Herzegovina in their game at the women's Basketball World Cup in Sydney, Australia, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022.

Associated Press

"This streak doesn't mean much right now because we're going into the quarterfinals and focusing on winning a gold medal, but it's something to kind of hang your hat on later."

What started with Sue Bird, Diana Taurasi and Sylvia Fowles has now been passed on to Stewart and A'ja Wilson. A legacy of excellence that doesn't appear will end anytime soon.

"The players change and, you know, there was a lot of concern about who's next," U.S. coach Cheryl Reeve said. "It was a concern when Dawn Staley and Lisa Leslie were playing and who was going to be next. Then it was Sue and (Taurasi) and then other great players, too. Now with this group they are saying, hey, we're pretty good, too." After going unbeaten in

pool play again, the U.S. hasn't lost a game prior to the semifinals since 1983.

"We know the responsibility when you put on this jersey. There's a lot more than yourself," Plum said. "Everyone puts pride to the side. We have a common goal. We have some amazing players on this team." The Americans (5-0) won their pool games by an average of 46.2 points and

never trailed in any. They'll face Serbia in the quarterfinals Thursday. In other quarterfinal games, Puerto Rico will face Canada; China plays France and Australia takes on Belgium.

The U.S. was coming off a record rout of South Korea in which the team broke the World Cup record for points with 145. While the Americans didn't match that number, they put the game out of reach in the first 10 minutes, going up 33-15.

The lead ballooned to 63-31 at halftime. Bosnia and Herzegovina put together a small run to start the third quarter, but the U.S. scored the final 19 points of the period.

Once again they used a dominant inside performance, outscoring Bosnia and Herzegovina 84-28 in the paint led by Wilson, Stewart and Brionna Jones.

"It's a huge part of our identity," Reeve said. "Ninety-whatever we had yesterday and 84 today, we just know what we're good at and we have players that are really understanding their opportunities for that." The U.S. was missing Jewell Loyd, who the team said was resting. □

# Mickelson asks to remove name from lawsuit against PGA Tour

By DOUG FERGUSON  
AP Golf Writer

Phil Mickelson, the driving force among PGA Tour players in the rival LIV Golf series, and three other players asked a federal judge Tuesday to remove their names from the antitrust lawsuit against the PGA Tour.

Talor Gooch, Hudson Swafford and Ian Poulter filed separately to have their names removed. That leaves only three players — Bryson DeChambeau, Peter Uihlein and Matt Jones — and Saudi-funded LIV Golf as plaintiffs in the lawsuit filed in early August.

The trial is not scheduled to begin until January 2024. Mickelson's decision was not a surprise. He had said two weeks ago to SI.com that he no longer needed to be involved in the law-

suit now that LIV Golf has joined as a plaintiff.

"The only reason for me to stay in is damages, which I don't really want or need anything," Mickelson said. "I do think it's important that the players have the right to play when and where they want, when and where they qualify for. And now that LIV is a part of it, that will be accomplished if and when they win."

LIV Golf already suffered one setback in court when U.S. District Judge Beth Labson Freeman denied a temporary restraining order that sought to allow LIV Golf players to compete in the PGA Tour's lucrative postseason.

Mickelson has been one of the chief recruiters for LIV Golf and its leader, Greg Norman.

In an interview with Alan

Shipnuck for his biography on Mickelson, the six-time major champion said he recruited three other "top players" for LIV Golf and that they paid attorneys to write the operating agreement for the proposed league.

Mickelson was among the last players announced when LIV Golf and its \$25 million purses began in early June. There now have been five events, with the next two scheduled in October in Thailand and Saudi Arabia.

LIV Golf has 12 of the top 50 in the world ranking.

Patrick Reed fell out of the top 50 this week, in part because LIV Golf does not receive world ranking points as its application with the Official World Golf Ranking board is considered, a process that could take until



Phil Mickelson watches the flight of his tee shot on the first hole during the second round of the LIV Golf Invitational-Chicago tournament Saturday, Sept. 17, 2022, in Sugar Grove, Ill.

Associated Press

next summer.

"The PGA Tour for the last 20 or 30 years have had all the best players in the world. That will never be the case again," Mickelson said two weeks ago. "LIV Golf is here to stay, and this type of divisive talk is doing nobody good."

His hope was for LIV Golf and the PGA Tour to work together, which PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan has said is unlikely to happen. The PGA Tour has suspended all members who have signed with LIV Golf for violating tour regulations. □



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## MLB playoff primer: Things to know as postseason nears

By **DAVID BRANDT**  
AP Sports Writer

Major League Baseball's postseason has a little more heft this season.

The playoffs are rapidly approaching, with the final regular season games set for Oct. 5. The postseason begins two days later with a field of 12 teams — up from last year's 10 — and includes a best-of-three format for the opening wild-card round.

An expanded postseason could lead to some spicy early postseason matchups. San Diego's newly acquired slugger Juan Soto against the defending World Series champion Braves? Ageless star Albert Pujols and the Cardinals against Bryce Harper, Kyle Schwarber and the Phillies? Both are possibilities depending on results in the season's final week.

MLB's new wild-card format is similar to the one currently used in college baseball for the NCAA Super Regional round: The three games will be scheduled on three consecutive days from Oct. 7-9 at the higher seed's field. The first team that gets two wins advances.

After that, the playoffs will be business as usual. The division series will be best-of-five, while the league championship series and World Series will be best-of-seven.

Here's a little more information about baseball's bulked-up postseason:

### WHAT'S NEW IN BASEBALL'S WILD-CARD ROUND?

The best-of-three wild card format is a change from the sudden death one-game format that's been in place since 2012.

Six teams each from the American League and National League will qualify for the postseason, includ-



**New York Yankees' Aaron Judge looks out before a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022, in New York.**

ing the three division winners in each league. The three wild-card teams in each league will be the teams with the best record that didn't win their division. The top two teams with the best records in each league will get a bye and don't have to play in the wild-card round. Those four teams get a few days of rest.

Right now, that would be the Astros and Yankees in the American League and the Dodgers and Mets in the National League.

The wild-card round will feature four series: The No.

6 seed will play at the No. 3 seed in both the AL and NL. The No. 5 seed will play at the No. 4 seed.

### WHY ARE THE PLAYOFFS STARTING LATE?

October's postseason festivities will bleed into November before a champion is crowned.

That's mostly because of the sport's labor strife that resulted in a work stoppage over the winter. It delayed the beginning of spring training and pushed the regular season back about a week. Baseball players and owners salvaged the usual 162-game

13th inning for the Rockies in 2007.

Those days are gone.

If there's a tie for one of the playoff spots, mathematical tiebreakers will be used instead of an extra game. The first will be the head-to-head record between the two teams involved.

If that can't handle the stalemate, the team with the best intra-divisional record will win the tiebreaker. If that doesn't work, the process continues with more and more convoluted solutions until a resolution is reached.

It's unlikely tiebreakers will be needed in the American League, but keep an eye on the National League. The Braves and Mets are locked in a tight race for the NL East, while the Brewers and Phillies are in a battle for the final NL wild-card spot.

### WHO ARE THE FAVORITES?

Great question.

The Los Angeles Dodgers have been dominant all season with a lineup that includes Mookie Betts, Trea Turner, Will Smith and Freddie Freeman. They could top 110 wins this season during the final week.

Over in the American League, the Houston Astros have already topped 100 wins as well. They've got a loaded lineup that includes Jose Altuve, Alex Bregman and Yordan Alvarez, along with potential AL Cy Young winner Justin Verlander.

New York's teams should figure into the mix as well. The Yankees were cruising for much of the season — led by star Aaron Judge's 60-homer campaign — but have just a 30-31 record since the All-Star break. The Mets have one of the league's deepest pitching staffs, with two aces on top in Jacob deGrom and Max Scherzer. □

Associated Press

season, but to do that, they had to move opening day from March 31 to April 7.

Some of the games originally scheduled for the first week of the season were moved to the end, meaning a season that was originally scheduled to end on Oct. 2 instead ends on Oct. 5.

Hence, a late start to the playoffs.

### WHAT HAPPENED TO BASEBALL TIEBREAKER GAMES?

Game No. 163 is one that lives in baseball lore. Bucky Dent's homer for the Yankees in 1978. Matt Holliday's game-winning run in the